

Replacement paragraphs showing the changes made therein:

Replacement paragraph for page 4, lines 17-30:

In a preferred embodiment, the affinity tag binds to an affinity matrix through the intermediate of a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity tag and a polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix. The affinity tag may comprise at least one MS2 or R17 coat protein recognition site and the polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity tag is an MS2 or R17 coat protein or portion thereof sufficient for binding to the MS2 or R17 coat protein recognition site, respectively. The polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix may be selected from the group consisting of a maltose binding protein; a 6x His peptide (SEQ ID NO: 12); glutathione S transferase; or portion thereof sufficient to bind specifically to an affinity matrix. In one embodiment, the polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix is a maltose binding protein or portion thereof sufficient to bind to amylose, the affinity matrix is an amylose matrix, and the ribonucleoprotein complex is eluted from the amylose matrix with maltose or a maltose analog. The method may comprise contacting the RNA affinity substrate with the fusion protein, such that the fusion protein binds specifically to the affinity tag, prior to contacting the RNA affinity substrate with the protein mixture.

Replacement paragraph for page 19, lines 23-31:

TAATACGACTCACTATAGGGAGACCGGCAGATCAGCTTGGCCGCGTCCATCTGGTCA
TCTAGGATCTGATATCATCGATGAATTCGAGCTCGGTACCCCGTTCGTCCTCACTCTC
TTCCGCATCGCTGTCTGCGAGGGCCAGCTGTTGGGGTGAGTACTCCCTCTCAAAGC
GGGCATGACTTCTGCCCTCGAGTTATTAACCCTCACTAAAGGCAGTAGTCAAGGGTT
TCCTTGAAGCTTTCGTGCTGACCCTGTCCCTTTTTTCCACAGCTGCAGGTTCGACGT
TGAGGACAAACTCTTCGCGGTCTTCCAGTACTCTTGGATCCGATATCCGTACACCA
TCAGGGTACGAGCTAGCCCATGGCGTACACCATCAGGGTACGACTAGTAGATCTCGT
ACACCATCAGGGTACGGAATTCTCTAGAGTCGAGTTCTATAGTGTCACCTAAAT
(SEQ ID NO: [9] 11).